श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: यह बहुत अच्छा सुझाव है। आप ही एपायंट कर दीजिए राज्यसभा की समिति, सर।

MR. CHAIRMAN: A little while ago there was a general demand for a Joint Committee. *(Interruptions)*

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: सर, आप अपने हाऊस की कमेटी बना लीजिए।

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Sir, if there are any specific instances in respect of the attitude of Collectors or Deputy Commissioners while implementing the Scheme, where they have asked the MPs to sit outside, it would be easier for me if they are brought to my notice to ascertain the facts. Now, Sir, there are two different views. One is of having a joint Committee and the other is a Committee of Members consisting only from Rajya Sabha to look into the matter and to take appropriate decisions after looking into it.

As you have rightly mentioned, we will discuss with the Speaker as to what should be the major changes in the guidelines. I will have to have prior permission of the Speaker because the Speaker is also involved in this. These are prepared on the basis of consultations of the leaders of all the political parties who were present in the meeting. I was also present in that. The Speaker gave specific guidelines indicating what to do and what not to do and what should be the role of the implementing agency. A Joint parliamentary Committee or a committee as suggested by the hon. Members is not there is the guidelines. It will be improper for me to give any commitment unless decided by the House or by the Speaker or by yourself, Sir, as to the lines on which this has to be done. It is premature to consider a Joint Committee and I have given reasons for this also because that should be connected with the monitoring agency at different levels, including district Collectors, to NIC, to Parliament House. This is through the NIC network. The information comes from each and every Collector. That will be ready within one week's time. It is under process. I will inform the Collectors. They have to give the feed back through the district network which is linked with the NIC system. It will be easier for us to have information on each and every scheme. As regards other related issues which will come from the network, it is for the House to decide. From my side, why should I object? But the point is, these are new schemes which are to be first understood by the implementing agency and then it would be easier for co-ordination at the district level and at the Ministry level. It is of use for me also to get all the information. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, he is a very good Minister. We should not harass him beyond this point. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We go on to the next Question No. 107. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann.

*107. *[The questioner (Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann) was absent for answer vide col. 35 infra.]*

Sale price of wheat in open market fixed by FCI

*108. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the sale price of wheat in open market fixed by Food Corporation of India for its own stock of wheat;

(b) whether it is a fact that the sale price of wheat in Gujarat is higher by Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 as compared to the price offered to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(c) if the freight is a factor for difference in sale prices then the reasons for uniformity in sale price for Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(d) the place from where wheat is supplied to various States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The open sale prices of wheat for July, 1995 in different States varied from Rs. 410 to Rs. 455 per quintal.

(b) The open sale price of wheat in the three States in July, 1995 were as under:—

	(Rs. per quintal)
Gujarat	435
Rajasthan	415
Madhya Pradesh	410

(c) The open sale price of wheat is fixed by the High Level Committee of the Food Corporation of India after keeping the following relevant factors in mind:

(i) Central issue price of wheat

(ii) The actual issue price of wheat in the State for PDS.

(iii) Market rates of wheat.

(iv) Wholesale rates of wheat at major centres in U.P., Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.

(v) Actual local market rates at which roller flour mills are purchasing wheat from up-country.

(vi) Addition of freight, gunny cost, incidential etc. to the wholesale wheat rate at different mandis in Punjab, Haryana and U.P.

The High Level Committee took aforesaid factors including the availability of old stock of imported wheat in Gujarat and Maharashtra when it decided to equalise the open sale wheat prices in Gujarat and Maharashtra since April, 1995.

(d) Wheat is supplied mainly from the States of Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Rajasthan to various states.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First supplementary.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, Punjab, Haryana and UP are the major despatching centres and the wheat reaches Maharashtra and Gujarat at a price comparatively higher than Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. For Madhya Pradesh they charge Rs. 410 while Gujarat is charged Rs. 435. If it were a question of freight, then for Maharashtra also they charge the same rate of Rs. 435. So, I want to know from the despatch centre to the receiving centre...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question because very less time is left.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: If the freight is charged on the basis of the milage, we can understand the rationale. But you have given so many factors.

So, why not make the freight a single criterion from the despatch centre to the receiving centre for the sale of wheat? That is my question.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, freight is not the only criterion because the purpose of the open sale was also to keep the open market prices in check and to dispose of the excess stocks of wheat that the FCI has. So, we have many criteria. Therefore, these prices keep on changing. The hon. Member has said that it should be the same in Maharashtra. The State of Maharashtra still has a lot of imported wheat lying there. Therefore, to dispose of it, we have to keep the same prices in Maharashtra and Gujarat also. Freight is just one of the factors which determine the prices in a state.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Now, the question is what the actual issue price of wheat in the States for the PDS, which is one of the factors for consideration for the price of wheat listed by the FCI? What is the actual issue price/selling price by the States through the PDS? What is the relationship? This is with regard to the wheat that you are sending for open sale. Therefore, the criteria and complications that are involved are not relevant. Actually, freight is the most relevant factor—whether they have stock

or they do not have stock and if they have stock, they will not ask for import. Would you consider this factor?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, the Central issue price of wheat is, of course, a factor because the open sale price cannot be less than the Central issue price. We do not want it to be less than the Central issue price. In that way, it is a floor price. This determines that the open sale price would not be less than the Central issue price. The actual issue price of each State is also different. That factor also comes in. For example, in Maharashtra, there is one rupee per quintal of additional charge over the Central issue price, Haryana charges only fifteen paise over the Central issue price. So, many factors are considered. But since the hon. Member is saying that freight should be given more weightage, we will certainly consider that aspect.

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें गुजरात में 435, राजस्थान में 415 और मध्य प्रदेश में 410 बताया है और उन्होंने जो अभी जवाब दिया है उसमें यह बताया है कि कोई ओल्ड स्टॉक आफ इम्पोर्टिड व्हीट गुजरात में और महाराष्ट्र में पड़े हैं, इसी वजह से कुछ फेर-फार है भाव में तो मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं कि गुजरात में और महाराष्ट्र में जो इम्पोर्टिड व्हीट का ओल्ड स्टाक है उसमें से कितना गुजरात में है और कितना महाराष्ट्र में है और वह कितना ओल्ड है?

श्री अजीत सिंह: यह इन्फॉरमेशन तो अभी मेरे पास नहीं है एग्जेक्टली।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: आपने अभी अपने जवाब में बताया है, आपने जो कुछ भाव का केल्कुलेशन किया है 435, 415 और 410, वह इस बात से किया है कि गुजरात में और महाराष्ट्र में इम्पोर्टिड ओल्ड स्टाक व्हीट का पड़ा है। तो मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं, मेरा बहुत सीधा सवाल है, कि गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में तिकना इम्पोर्टिड व्हीट पड़ा है?

श्री अजीत सिंह: सभापति जी, यह एग्जेक्ट इन्फारमेशन मैं मैम्बर को दे दूंगा कि कितना ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: आपने केल्कुलेशन किया है, आपने जो जवाब दिया है, मैं तो आपके जवाब से ही पूछ रहा हूं, मैं कोई बाहर का सवाल नहीं पूछ रहा हूं।

श्री अजीत सिंह: एक हाई पावर कमेटी एफ०सी०आई० में है जिसमें फाइनैंस मिनिस्ट्री के रिप्रजेंटेटिव्स हैं, एफ०सी०आई० के है, फूड मिनिस्ट्री के है, वे हर महीने, जैसी जरुरत होती है, प्राइस तय करते हैं और उसमें ये सब फैक्टर कंसिडर करते है। तो मेरा जवाब यह था कि वह भी प्राइस तय करने में एक फैक्टर है। माननीय सदस्य का जवाब है कि एग्जेक्टली कितना है। ऐक्जेक्ट तो मैं नहीं कह सकता लेकिन गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में करीब 1,20,000 टन इम्पोर्टेड व्हीट अभी है।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: कितना पुराना है?

श्री अजीत सिंह: इम्पोर्टेड व्हीट है।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: कितने दिनों से यह इम्पोर्ट किया हुआ पड़ा है?

श्री अजीत सिंह: वही तो कह रहा हूं, 1,20,000 टन है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase/Decrease in Prices of Essential Commodities

*101. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what has been increase/decrease in the prices of essential commodities in the country during the period from 1st April, 1995 to 30th June, 1995; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to control rise in prices of essential commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Percentage variation in the wholesale price indices of selected essential commodities during 1.4.95 and 30.6.95 is given in the Statement (*See* below).